

[27 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Sl. No.	Circles	Total No. of Villages	VPT Target for the year 2000-2001	Villages with VPTs as on 31.01.2001	Villages left uncovered as on 1.2.2001
28.	Calcutta	468	47	421	47
29.	Delhi	191	0	191	0
TOTAL		607491	100000	393722	213769

Disconnection of Phones

†584. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints from different parts of the country regarding disconnection of telephones even after making payments of telephone bills;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any concrete steps in this direction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Normally telephones are disconnected due to non payment of dues. However, in rare cases telephone may get disconnected on account of late receipt of information about payments made in Post Offices or in designated banks.

(b) and (c) Steps regarding computerizing billing and accounting have been taken by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, to facilitate immediate linking of payment particulars to avoid disconnection.

VRS in MTNL

†585. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is formulating a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

50 thousand employees with a view to improve its image in the atmosphere of increasing competition;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it would be implemented and the lumpsum amount which each employee would get so that he can rehabilitate himself; and

(c) whether this scheme would be implemented in the whole of the Department of Communications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Recovery of Outstanding dues by Karnataka Telecom

586. SHRI K.C. KONDALAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated outstanding dues to Karnataka Telecom from its subscribers; and

(b) what steps are taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The net outstanding dues of Karnataka Telecom from its subscribers as on 30.11.2000 are Rs. 221.89 Crores.

(b) The following steps are taken to recover the same:—

- (i) Targets for liquidation of outstandings are set and performance monitored against them by BSNL Headquarters.
- (ii) Incentives to staff have been enhanced for the early recovery of outstandings.
- (iii) The powers of the Circle for legitimate write off have been enhanced.
- (iv) High Power Committees and Liquidation Boards have been set up in the field for early liquidation of outstandings.
- (v) The collection efficiency is monitored each month.